

Subject: Re: Can we bring back broadway and make it a little cleaner?

From: Jessica Wethington McLean

Date: 04/26/2016 05:41 PM

To: bobbikaelin@me.com, Nick Griffin <NGriffin@downtownla.com>, Blair Besten <blair@historiccore.bid>, Noah Strouse <noah@historiccore.bid>, Diana Yedoyan <Diana.yedoyan@lacity.org>, Anika Ostin <anika.ostin@lacity.org>, Sara Hernandez <sara.hernandez@lacity.org>, Kent Smith <kent@fashiondistrict.org>

Dear Bobbi,

Thanks for reaching out. We share your concerns and it's an ongoing process to get things addressed, just as new issues pop up in their place - of course that's not unique to Downtown LA, but is typical of any very active, dense urban environment in a big city.

By way of this email, allow me to connect you with members of our Downtown team who you should know. Sara Hernandez, our Downtown Area Director, is your best resource for a number of these matters, which, while happening on Broadway in this instance, are a widespread concern throughout all of Downtown. Sara's been very active on issues of homelessness, is equipped with knowledge about what has and can be done, and is on the front lines of this concern for our office.

Our Downtown field deputies are Anika Ostin and Diana Yedoyan. The council office is not an enforcement agency, but feel free to let us know the case / report numbers when you do report things and we can help followup if it doesn't get resolved - the ladies I just mentioned are also excellent resources for connecting with the departments as needed.

I'm also including Blair Besten and Noah Strause of the Historic Core BID, Nick Griffin of the Downtown Center BID and Kent Smith of the LA Fashion BID who are all excellent resources. The BIDs (Business Improvement Districts) handle clean & safe activities along Broadway (which BID depends on which portion of the corridor)

The way to report violations regarding merchandise and other issues on the sidewalk, etc is through 3-1-1. You can do that by phone or online - and there's even an app so you can submit photos. <https://www.lacity.org/myla-311/myla-311-service-request> The Bureau of Street Services is the enforcement arm for such infractions and they work on a report-respond basis, so there are not inspectors roaming around looking for violations, they do respond when things are reported. That's the best way to address the first set of issues you mention in your email. It's amazing the number of people who see crime but say nothing and then get upset that seemingly nothing is being done to address it. You can also inform your BID.

I'll help I any way I can, as safety and pedestrian comfort are essential to the economic development of Broadway, which is the central core of the Councilmember's Bringing Back Broadway initiative. I appreciate being kept in the loop, so thank you.

Sincerely,

Jessica

Jessica Wethington McLean

Executive Director, Bringing Back Broadway
Director, Downtown Economic Development

Office of City Councilmember José Huizar
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On Mon, Apr 25, 2016 at 5:19 PM, BringingBack Broadway <bringingbackbroadway@lacity.org> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Bobbi Kaelin <bobbikaelin@me.com>

Date: Tue, Apr 5, 2016 at 1:39 PM

Subject: Can we bring back broadway and make it a little cleaner?

To: BringingBackBroadway@lacity.org

To whom it may concern-

I applaud the efforts to date of the Broadway revitalization efforts.

You've got my wholehearted support.

I am a homeowner in DTLA since 2011. Right on Broadway! I

specifically searched for a place on Broadway, and after a year, found

one. I love DTLA and I especially love Broadway. But I am getting

disappointed in the street for a number of reasons.

>From a business standpoint, I'd like to request that businesses on Broadway keep their merchandise off of the sidewalk. They pay rent for the inside of their shop - not for the sidewalk space.

Restaurant/outdoor seating should be an exception. But to see speakers, shoes, dresses, etc outside on the streets makes the city look sloppy. It's all unfair to those businesses that keep their merchandise in their storefront. Occasional signage is probably ok - but get the merchandise off the street and keep it in the store. It truly will make Broadway look nicer. I'm sure there are some rules somewhere that address this. Can you have it enforced? We look like a run down part of Tijuana - which I realize sounds 'bad' - but we're Los Angeles. Let's have some pride in our street. Especially Broadway. Blaring music, flashing lights, and junk on the sidewalks just doesn't happen in Southpark! Let's make Broadway street look clean like that PLEASE!

I am getting concerned about the homelessness and resulting problems affecting downtown, and it's getting worse. I am sensitive to the issue - however, this is MY neighborhood too and I should be able to say that I don't want people sleeping on my street. I also don't want them laying on the sidewalks during the day. I don't want to smell urine or see people urinate in parking lots, doorways, or on the side and even front of buildings. I would like to have a 'no solicitation' policy - as it would discourage people from asking for money, jangling coin jars, or walking into traffic to collect change. That's dangerous and very uncomfortable to pedestrians and drivers alike. It's my understanding that some agreement was made that 'tents' could be erected at 9 pm and must be removed at 6 am. It's not happening. In fact, tent cities are springing up and remaining in place 24 hours each day. The filth and garbage surrounding these areas is a health hazard. It affects where we can walk and enjoy our beautiful city. I know this isn't news to you. What steps can be made to get this cleaned up? How can we legally take back our neighborhoods? Who can I call? What resources do I have, as a taxpayer and homeowner in MY neighborhood.

I don't want to just be quiet about this. Otherwise the issues will simply not be addressed. We needn't be a sanctuary city for all homeless individuals. When I walk skid row, I see people braiding hair, sitting on old office furniture, hanging out in general and doing nothing. It is getting worse. I also see health hazards and public urination. I do not understand how the city can let this happen. I don't understand why it is left to continue as it is.

We need to make it uncomfortable for people to just sleep on the street and set up camps. It shouldn't be a campground. Otherwise, why not open up Elysian Park and allow for overnight camping and permanent housing there?

Again, I'm sensitive to this issue. But I think we are being too sensitive to it. We're offering a crutch to people in allowing them to live and loiter in these manners. If we do not take action it will continue to steadily get worse.

I've written before and not heard back - and I understand everyone is busy. Who do I call? What can I do? I want to adopt my street and make it shine. clean it up. Hollywood has been able to dramatically clean up their streets - I think we should do the same. And as I said earlier, compare the cleanliness of Southpark to Broadway.....they don't let people sleep or lay on the sidewalks. Little Tokyo has a 'no solicitation' policy I think. Can we adopt one too?

Thank you-

Bobbi Kaelin

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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Our web site is: www.BringingBackBroadway.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BringingBackBroadway

Twitter: DTLA_Broadway

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or would like to be removed, just reply to let us know and we'll take
care of it. Thanks.